Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 MC-02 OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05 IGA-02

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R 191131Z JAN 76 FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3707 INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MASS, PK, IR

SUBJECT: PAKISTANI PURCHASE OF ARMS FROM U.S.

REF: TEHRAN 0407

1. GOP IS CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT IT PERCEIVES AS TRENT IN U.S. CONGRESS TO PUT GREATER RESTRICTIONS ON US ARMS SALES ABROAD. PAK OFFICIALS AND MILITARY OFFICERS POINT TO PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO RESTRICT TOTAL DOLLAR VALUE OF MILITARY SALES, RESTRICT SIZE OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE MISSIONS, PHASE-OUT OF CREDIT SALES, AS ALL INDICATIVE OF WORRISOME TREND. THEIR CONCERN IS NOT DIRECTED TOWARD ANY SINGLE PIECE OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION, RATHER THEY WONDER IF MOOD IN THE STATES AND ON THE HILL MIGHT RESULT IN GOP BEING EVEN MORE SEVERELY LIMITED THAN IT IS NOW IN PURCHASING ARMS FROM US.

2. WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY TEHRAN THAT, AT LEAST IN PART, GOP REQUEST BASED ON DESIRE TO GET FUNDING FROM GOI BEFORE IRAN COMPLETES ITS REASSESSMENT OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WHICH MAY RESULT IN LESS GOING TO GOP THAN ORIGINALLY THOUGHT. ALSO, WE CERTAIN GOP WOULD OBVIOUSLY FEEL MORE SECURE HAVING FUNDING IN HAND, RATHER THAN WAITING FOR GOI TO MAKE IT AVAILABLE CONFIDENTIAL

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OVER LONGER PERIOD OF TIME.

3. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT UNTIL NOW, DELIBERATE PACE OF PAK ARMS PURCHASES FROM US WAS AS MUCH DUE TO INEFFICIENCY IN PAK MILITARY'S MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES AND TIME TAKEN TO DETERMINE ITS OWN PROCUREMENT PRIORITIES, AS IT WAS FUNCTION OF LACK OF IMMEDIATE FINANCING. HOWEVER, NOW THAT GOP HAS REFINED ITS LIST OF REQUIREMENTS FROM THE US AND HAS ESTABLISHED MORE EFFICIENT BUREAUCRATIC PROCEDURES, AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING BECOMES A MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERN. GOP WOULD VIEW ACCELERATION OF FUNDS DELIVERY AS REASSURING AND WOULD WELCOME IT AS FURTHER PROOF OF IRANIAN CONCERN FOR PAKISTAN'S SECURITY. WE SHARE AMBASSADOR HELM'S VIEW THAT ON BALANCE IT WOULD BE BETTER TO SPEED UP FUNDS TRANSFER.

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